

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink cartridge ~~for use with ink and detachable from an image forming apparatus that forms an image using the ink~~, comprising:

an ink tank that stores ink, an outer wall of the ink tank ~~is permeable to light~~ is formed of a material that is capable of transmitting light; and

a prism-shaped structure disposed on the outer wall of the ink tank and that contacts the ink, the prism-shaped structure being inclined ~~downwardly~~ with respect to a vertical axis.

2. (Currently Amended) The ink cartridge ~~according to~~ of claim 1, further comprising:

an inner wall disposed inside the ink tank and that divides the ink tank; and

a porous member that is accommodated inside of the inner wall; wherein the prism-shaped structure is inclined with respect to the inner wall.

3. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus ~~that can mount~~ capable of mounting the ink cartridge ~~claimed in~~ of claim 2, comprising:

an irradiator that irradiates the prism-shaped structure with light;

a photoreceptor that receives reflected light of the light irradiated by the irradiator; and

a controller that determines whether an amount of the reflected light received by the photoreceptor is larger than or equal to a predetermined amount.

4. (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus ~~according to~~ of claim 3, further comprising a counter that counts and stores the number of times of ink ejection from the

cartridge, the counter starts counting when the amount of the reflected light reaches or exceeds the predetermined amount.

5. (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus ~~according to~~ of claim 4, wherein the counter counts up to a threshold value that indicates that the ink tank is empty.

6. (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus ~~to~~ of claim 5, wherein a count value previously stored in the counter is cleared before the counter starts counting.

7. (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus ~~according to~~ of claim 4, further comprising a flag that is turned on when the amount of the reflected light is larger than or equal to the predetermined amount, and that is turned off when the amount of the reflected light is smaller than the predetermined amount, wherein the counter starts counting when the flag is turned on.

8. (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus ~~according to~~ of claim 7, wherein the counter counts up to a threshold value that indicates that the ink tank is empty.

9. (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus ~~according to~~ of claim 8, wherein a count value previously stored in the counter is cleared before the counter starts counting.